

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7940

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1243

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJ: AEGEAN DISPUTE: TEXT OF TURKISH NOTE

REF: A. ANKARA 1131; B. ATHENS 1059

1. MFA HAS PROVIDED US ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS WITH TEXT OF TURKISH NOTE TO GREECE DATED FEBRUARY 6, RESPONDING TO GREEK PROPOSAL FOR TAKING AEGEAN DISPUTES TO INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (REFTELS).

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT:

BEGIN QUOTE

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS IT COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF GREECE AND WITH REFERENCE TO THEIR NOTE OF JANUARY 27, 1975, NO. 6242.4/53/AS.293, REGARDING THE DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN SEA, HAS THE HONOUR TO SET FORTH THE VIEW OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HEREBELOW:
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THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WELCOMES THE SPIRIT OF CONCILIATION OF GREECE REGARDING ITS PROPOSAL TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE ON THE DELIMITATION OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS.

IT IS THE CONSIDERED VIEW OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT THAT VARIOUS VITAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE AEGEAN SEA ARE STILL OUTSTANDING BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, WHICH SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. AS TURKEY AND GREECE ARE COMPELLED TO BE FRIENDLY AND CO-OPERATIVE BY VIRTUE OF GEOGRAPHY AND MUTUAL INTERESTS, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTES THROUGH NEGOTIATION.

ANIMATED WITH THIS PSIRIT AND IN VIEW OF THE SPECIAL GEOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF THE AEGEAN SEA, WHEREIN BOTH COUNTRIES ARE CONFRONTED WITH ISSUES TO BE SETTLED YET, INTER ALIA THE BREDTH OF THE TERRITORIAL SEAS IN THE AEGEAN AND THE USE OF ITS AIRSPACE, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THE GOVERNMENT FO GREECE SHALL AGREE WITH PRIORITY, TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY ON THE QUESTION OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF WITH A VIEW TO ARRIVING AT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AND SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

INDEED, TURKEY HAD PROPOSED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS THE INITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, WITH THE AIM OF SOLVING THE DIFFERENCES ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF PEACEFULLY, IN A JUST AND EQUITABLE MANNER. IT SHOULD BE NOTED REGRETFULLY THAT THESE TURKISH PROPOSALS WERE NOT MET BY GREECE AND NEGOTIATIONS WERE THUS PREVENTED. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS CONSTITUTE A BASIC METHOD FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT YET TAKEN PLACE, THE ISSUES RELATING TO THE DISPUTES HAVE NEITHER BEEN FULLY IDENTIFIED NOR ELUCIDATED.

HOWEVER, IN PRINCIPLE, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FAVORABLY CONSIDERS THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO REFER THE DISPUTE OVER THE DELIMINATIONOF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF JOINTLY TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. TO THIS EFFECT AND TO ELABORATE THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THE MATTER SHALL BE REFERRED
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TO THE SAID COURT, TURKEY PROPOSES HIGH LEVEL TALKS TO BE INITIATED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE POLITICAL NATURE AND VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MATTER NECESSITATES THAT THESE TALKS BE HELD AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY OF REITERATING TO THE EMBASSY OF GREECE ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION

END QUOTE.

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